

4 Night Southern Snowdonia Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Snowdonia

Trip code: DOL04-WOD01

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint: 🌱 82kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Head out on walks to wonderful Welsh beauty spots and enjoy visits to some of Eryri's (Snowdonia's) standout highlights. There'll be a steam train ride aboard the Talylyn Railway to Dolgoch Falls, a guided tour of a traditional 20th century Welsh farmhouse, plus shorter, guided walks (up to 5 miles) through local favourites such as Coed y Brenin Forest and the Dysynni Valley.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- A ride on the Talylyn steam train to the impressive Dolgoch Falls
- Visiting Dyfi Wildlife Centre
- Exploring Coed y Brenin Forest Park
- A guided tour of Yr Ysgwrn, a traditional 20th century Welsh farmhouse
- Staying in our comfortable country house in Dolgellau
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tickets for the Talylyn Railway
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more Information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2. Walking is generally on good, well-graded paths; some sections are over rougher or steeper terrain. Walks are up to 5 miles (8km) with up to 1200 feet (360m) of ascent.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: The Precipice Walk and Dyfi Wildlife Centre

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5km) Ascent: 500 ft (150m) In summary: The Precipice Walk is one of the most famous attractions of the Dolgellau area and affords wonderful views down the Mawddach estuary and over to Cadair Idris. After a morning walk, there's a visit to the Dyfi Wildlife Centre, home to the Dyfi Osprey project at the Cors Dyfi Nature reserve. We will have the chance to explore the nature reserve, spotting a variety of different wildlife.

Day 3: Abergynolwyn, Talyllyn railway, and Dolgoch Falls

Distance: 5 miles (8km) Total ascent: 800 feet (240m) In summary: A morning walk into the Dysynni valley to visit Castell Y Bere and Mary Jones' chapel. The 13th century Castle Y Bere was the last stronghold of the Welsh princes. From Abergynolwyn village we walk beside nant Gwernol, then board the steam train for a ride on the Talyllyn railway to admire beautiful Dolgoch Falls.

Day 4: Coed y Brenin Forest and Yr Ysgwrn

Distance: 5 miles (8.5km) Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m) In Summary: We walk alongside the Mawddach river as it passes through rocky gorges, passing abandoned gold mines and two impressive waterfalls. Climbing up to a ridge we get stunning views through the trees of the Rhinogydd range and Cadair Idris before descending to the Forest Visitor Centre. The walking is mainly on good, gently graded forestry access roads, apart from one short, steep rocky track that takes some care. Afterwards, we'll enjoy a guided tour of Yr Ysgwrn, a traditional 20th century Welsh farmhouse and home to one of Britain's best-known Welsh-language poets.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Dolserau Hall

We're delighted to share that Dolserau Hall has now reopened following a significant investment in this much-loved Welsh HF Country House. With beautifully updated social spaces, refreshed bedrooms, and thoughtful enhancements throughout, it's the perfect moment to rediscover this special spot in southern Eryri (Snowdonia). Read more. Dolserau Hall enjoys arresting countryside views at this Victorian manor house at the southern end of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. The location is idyllic; think ancient woods and craggy uplands in all directions (parts of the park served as the inspiration for Middle Earth in JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*). There's no shortage of things to do, either, including following the Mawddach Trail along the edge of the Mawddach Estuary, discovering the compact range of hills known as the Rhinogs, and climbing the rugged foothills of Cader Idris – the highest mountain in southern Snowdonia (Eryri) at 893 metres. You'll also be close to Dolgellau, the small market town best known for its once flourishing woollen industry (ruins of the Pandy fulling mills used to remove fats and grease from the wool cloth can still be seen along the Afon Aran River). With only 21 rooms, it's one of HF Holidays' smaller country houses and 40% of it's rooms are reserved for singles, making it easier than ever to have your own space.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If

you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Packing list - UK Guided Walking

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip Waterproof and windproof jacket Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable) Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice Waterproof overtrousers Gloves and a warm hat Rucksack with waterproof liner Flask for hot drinks Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen UV sunglasses For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks: spare warm clothing spare high energy food head torch and spare batteries please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+ Recommended Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve) Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Camera Walking poles
